

Iris virginica

blue flag



Appearance: Perennial herb to 4 ft tall, from a stout rhizome.

Leaves: Erect, but not stiff, 24-32 in. long, about 1 in. wide; inflorescence 20-40 in. tall, often falling after flowering, with 1-3 flower clusters with short leaflike bracts and straight stem.

Flowers: Pale blue to purple; sepals 3, spreading and arched 2 3/4 - 4 in. long, obovate to oval; petals broad above and narrow at the base, about 2/3 as long as sepals.

Fruit: A capsule 1-2 1/4 in. long, usually angled, with many flattened seeds.

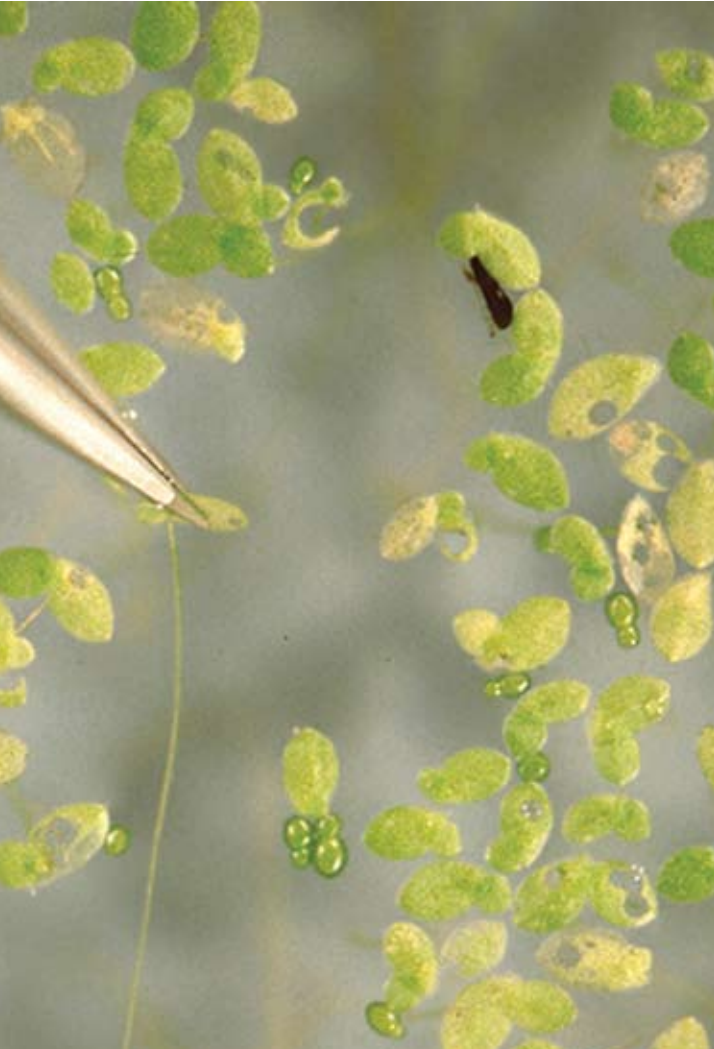
Location:
Occurs throughout Florida.



Field Notations

Lemna valdiviana

small duckweed

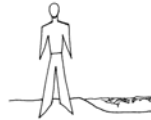


Appearance: Small, floating plants, with no clear distinction between leaf and stem.

Leaves: Ovate or oblong, usually floating at surface (the upper surface resisting wetting); 2 - several (older and younger) leaves usually attached to each other; each leaf with 1 slender root on underside.

Flowers: Very tiny, rarely formed.

Location:
Occurs throughout Florida.



Field Notations

Limnobiium spongia

frog's bit



Appearance: Aquatic perennial herb, spreading by runners, younger plants floating, with heart-shaped leaves at surface of water, such leaves are thickened by spongy air tissue below; older (flowering) plants are generally rooted in mud.

Leaves: Thin, long-stalked; stalk up to 6 in. long, blade ovate or subcircular, to about 2 3/4 in. long and wide, the base notched or not, tip blunt or rounded.

Flowers: Unisexual, solitary from leaf axils, much shorter than the leaves; sepals 3, petals 3, narrow and white; stamens 6 - 12.

Fruit: A many-seeded berry, seeds minutely spiny; fruit stalk curling downward into water.

Location:
Occurs throughout Florida.



Field Notations

Ludwigia leptocarpa

anglestem primrose willow



Appearance: Annual or perennial herbs, or subshrubs, stems erect or creeping.

Leaves: Opposite or alternate, simple, margins may be minutely toothed.

Flowers: Sepals and petals usually 4 or 5, sepals persistent on the fruit, petals yellow and quickly falling; stamens 4 - 10; ovary below the sepals.

Fruit: A capsule with many small seeds.

Location:

Occurs in the northwest and northeast regions of Florida.



Field Notations

Nelumbo lutea

American lotus



Appearance: Large aquatic perennial herbs with long rhizome, from which the leaves and flowers arise.

Leaves: Alternate with long, stiff stalks, leaf blade circular, centrally attached like an umbrella, 15 - 40 in. wide, most rising above the water surface in shallow water, or floating in deeper water (may also be found below water in clear ponds with fluctuating water level).

Flowers: Solitary, on a long, stiff stalk, rising above the leaves, 4 - 6 in. wide; yellow, with many petals and stamens.

Fruit: Short, broadly cone-shaped, the upper surface flat, each seed borne in a circular pit, seeds hard, nutlike, about 1/2 in. across.

Location:

Occurs in the northwest and northeast regions of Florida.



Field Notations

Nymphaea odorato

fragrant water lily



Appearance: Large perennial aquatic herb, from a long, thick rhizome.

Leaves: Alternate, long-stalked, usually floating (submersed leaves thinner and more delicate); blade broad or sub-circular, deeply notched at base, the lobes at base usually pointed.

Flowers: Attractive, white, each on a separate stalk, borne at or above water surface (some open only during the night, others only during the day); many petals and stamens.

Fruit: Stems coiling, developing under water.

Location:
Occurs throughout Florida.



Field Notations

Panicum hemitomon

maidencane



Appearance: Perennial herb from underground runners, erect or leaning and sometimes rooting at the lower joints, up to 6 ft. tall.

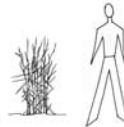
Leaves: Flat or sometimes folded, 5 - 12 in. long, 1/2 - 7/8 in. wide, usually smooth on both sides but sterile immature plants may have very hairy leaves.

Flowers: 1/16 - 1/8 in. long, smooth, pressed against the branches, green.

Fruit: Slightly longer than 1/16 in., elliptic, tan, smooth.

Location:

Occurs in the northwest and northeast regions of Florida.



Field Notations

Pontederia cordata

pickerelweed



Appearance: Perennial herbs, with creeping rhizome.

Leaves: From base, clustered, long-stalked, the blades narrowly lanceolate to (usually) ovate, with a notch at base; inflorescence a stalked raceme with a leaflike bract on stalk, base of flower cluster with small, folded bract.

Flowers: Blue marked with yellow or white, 2-lipped, with 6 petals and 6 stamens of two sizes.

Fruit: 1-seeded, ridged and crested.

Location:

Occurs throughout Florida.



Field Notations

Potamogeton species

pondweeds



Appearance: Perennial aquatic herbs, with slender stems, normally rooted at base.

Leaves: Alternate, with sheaths, often of two types, submersed leaves thin, usually narrow or very narrow; floating leaves usually firmer and wider; inflorescence stalked, catkinlike.

Flowers: Small, with tiny sepals and 4 anthers.

Fruit: 1-seeded, fleshy, with a hard crust around seed.

Location:

Occurs in the northwest and northeast regions of Florida.



Field Notations

Sagittaria lancifolia

duck potato



Appearance: Perennial herbs, sometimes with rhizome or rhizome and potato-like corms, roots branched.

Leaves: Clustered, linear and slightly flattened, straplike or stalked with blades elliptical to ovate or broadly arrowhead-shaped; inflorescence stalked, erect or sprawling, with few to many flowers clustered at joints.

Flowers: Unisexual, usually with the female lower and the male above in the same inflorescence; sepals 3, green, petals 3, white or pinkish, sometimes with spots of other colors at bases; stamens many; pistils many.

Fruit: A cluster of 1-seeded nutlets (1 from each pistil).

Location:
Occurs throughout
Florida.



Field Notations

Spirodela polyrhiza

giant duckweed

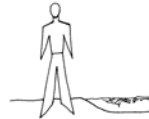


Appearance: Small, floating plants, with no clear distinction between leaf and stem.

Leaves: Broadly obovate to nearly obovate, usually with red dot in center, 1/32 - 5/16 in. long and nearly as wide, floating at surface (upper surface resists wetting), usually 2 - 3 connected; each "leaf" with 5 - 20 slender roots attached beneath.

Flowers: Very tiny, rarely formed.

Location:
Occurs throughout Florida.



Field Notations

Typha species

cat-tails



Appearance: Perennial herb to 8 ft. tall, with thick rhizome.

Leaves: Straplike, stiff, in 2 ranks, sheathing near base.

Flowers: Unisexual, densely crowded in cylindrical, terminal spike, the male flowers above the female.

Fruit: A sausage-shaped cluster of nutlets surrounded by chaff.

Location:
Occurs throughout
Florida.



Field Notations

Vallisneria americana

tape grass



Appearance: Submersed perennial herb, spreading by runners.

Leaves: Alternate, densely clustered, straplike, varying in width and length.

Flowers: Unisexual, M/F; male flowers short-stalked, with a sheath enclosing many small flowers with 3 sepals and 2 anthers; male flowers break free and float to surface; female flower long-stalked, reaching surface, where pollination may occur.

Fruit: A slender, banana-like capsule with many tiny seeds; stalk may curl after flowering, pulling the fruit into the water.

Location:

Occurs in the northwest, northeast, and central regions of Florida.



Field Notations

Wolffia columbiana

water meal

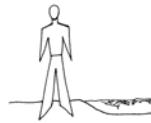


Appearance: Tiny, floating, rootless plants, less than 1/16 in. long.

Leaves: Ellipsoid to ovoid, often a larger and a smaller (younger) leaf connected; body somewhat flattened or crested above, with a flat-topped hump.

Flowers: Tiny, rarely seen.

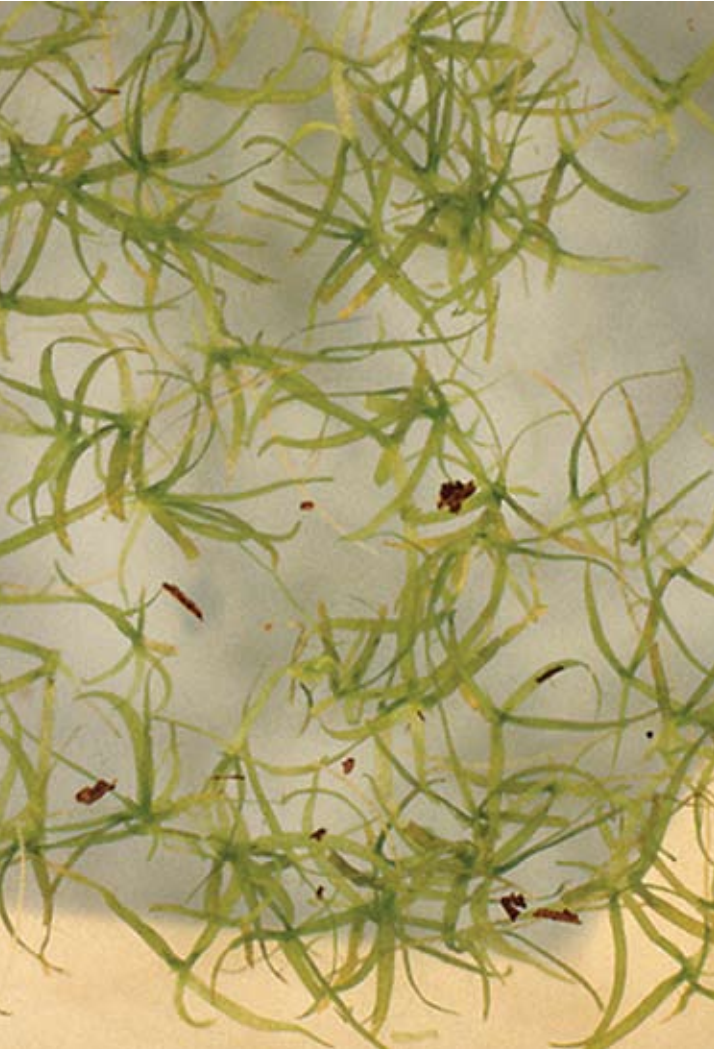
Location:
Occurs throughout Florida.



Field Notations

Wolffiella floridana

mud-midget



Appearance: Tiny, floating plants, without roots, without distinction between leaf and stem.

Leaves: Strap or tongue shaped, flattened with broad base and abruptly pointed tip, 2 - several commonly attached; all surfaces wettable (floating under surface film).

Flowers: Tiny and rarely seen.

Location:
Occurs throughout Florida.



Field Notations